

JOHN MCCAIN
ARIZONA

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COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

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(202) 224-2235

5353 NORTH 16TH STREET
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(602) 952-2410

4703 SOUTH LAKESHORE DRIVE
SUITE 1
TEMPE, AZ 85282
(480) 897-6289

407 WEST CONGRESS STREET
SUITE 103
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 670-6334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(602) 952-0170

February 20, 2007

Ms. Nancy Smith
Legislative Affairs Group Manager
Bureau of Land Management
US Department of the Interior
Mail Stop 401-LS, 1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter raised to me by Mr. Jon Fugate of the Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club (YVRGC) that appears to be in the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

When matters such as this are raised by a petitioner, it is my policy to refer them to the appropriate federal department or agency, regardless of whether the petitioner has any personal or political relationship with me. It is also my policy that I ask for no preferential treatment for this petitioner or any single or select group of interests, nor do I advocate a specific outcome for this or any other petitioner.

I ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines. My sole interest is to ensure that this petitioner is treated fairly and equitably and in a manner that reflects appropriate and prompt service to citizen taxpayers.

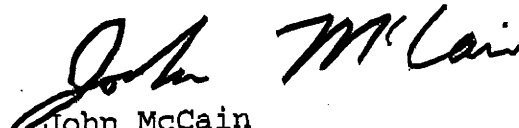
The YVRGC has questions regarding the boundaries and acreage of several BLM-managed wilderness areas in Arizona. In particular, the YVRGC has noted a difference between the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-628) which assigned 89,000 acres of federal land to the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness area, and the BLM's 2006 Draft Resource Management Plan that assumes 98,600 acres for the same wilderness area. Additional research by the YVRGC suggests that other Arizona wilderness areas also differ in what Congress established under P.L. 101-628 and what appears in BLM management documents.

I am enclosing correspondence from Mr. Fugate regarding this matter. I would appreciate a timely response to this petitioner addressing his concerns with a copy sent to me for my information. PLEASE MARK ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Attn: NICK MATIELLA in my Washington office,
241 Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510.

Let me reiterate that I am not advocating a specific result in this matter, and I trust that whatever decision or course of action you may take will be made in the best interests of the country. Again, I seek no preferential treatment for the Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club and request only that they be treated appropriately, fairly, and in a timely manner.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator

JM/dnm

Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

JIM AMMONS
PRESIDENT
NICK HEATWOLE
VICE PRESIDENT
JEFF MILLER
TREASURER
JON VANCE
SECRETARY
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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
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The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Russell Building 241
Washington DC 20510

January 10, 2007

Re: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wilderness Areas Larger Than Congress Allowed

Dear Senator McCain,

On behalf of the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club (YVRGC), I continue to thank you and members of your staff for continued assistance and endorsement of wildlife, wildlife management, and wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation in Arizona. Per my last telephone conversation with Mr. Nick Matiella regarding the Eagletail Mountain and other wilderness areas in Arizona, the YVRGC is providing you with nearly two years of extensive research explaining our concern(s).

Our organization has worked with you regarding congressionally designated wilderness in Arizona for over two decades. Our organization worked diligently alongside your staff, as well as many other members of Arizona's Congressional Delegation staff developing language that everyone anticipated would be crystal clear in regard to congressionally designated wilderness. They ranged from wildlife conservation, to military over-flights, to ensuring the United States Border Patrol (USBP) would have accessibility and mobility within wilderness in Arizona. In particular, we worked on boundaries and cherry stemming of existing roads in BLM's proposed wilderness areas.

While researching the 1987 Final Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement for the Yuma District, we came across three pieces of YVRGC correspondence to BLM dated September 1987 explaining our concerns toward wilderness designation in Arizona (reference letter # 40, 41, 55). As a 71 year old organization, we are very proud to say that we have been very consistent in our beliefs and in most instances very accurate as well, regarding negative impacts toward wildlife conservation, military preparedness, and USBP mobility in Arizona.

The Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club, Inc. Mission Includes, But Is Not Limited To:

The conservation of wildlife, habitat and natural resources, education of the public and members to include conservation issues and firearms safety. To support and defend the second amendment of the United States Constitution, provide recreation and organized activities to members and the public and participate in charitable and other community service activities especially those related to conservation and sportsmanship.

①

Honorable John McCain
January 10, 2007
Page Two

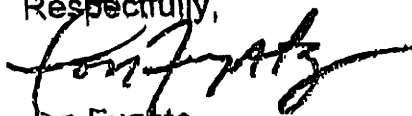
In our findings, you will clearly see that the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness area was designated by Congress to encompass 89,000 acres. You will also see that the original boundary and acreage that BLM shopped around to both the general public and the Arizona Game and Fish Department up until February 1990 was 78,020 acres. You will see in BLM's 2006 Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (which encompasses the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness); BLM currently reports this wilderness area to be 98,600 acres. At some point, which we are unable to determine, this area has increased nearly 10,000 acres. The YVRGC firmly believes that the boundaries for the Eagletail's as it is marked and mapped today, is not what Congress intended.

During our research of the Eagletail's, we have now discovered that there may be as many as four additional wilderness areas with consistent concern of being larger than what Congress approved. The four additional congressionally designated wilderness areas are titled as Warm Springs, Woosley Peak, Aravipa, and New Water Mountains.

In summary, we have worked with local and state BLM representatives and have not been able to receive clarification nor any possible resolve regarding the issue of what Congress approved for the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness versus what BLM describes in their documents.

Thank you in advance for reviewing our findings and providing a Senate Inquiry to determine the validity of our research and how this issue(s) will be resolved.

Respectfully,



Jon Fugate



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



MAR 16 2007

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

Thank you for your letter of February 20, 2007, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Jon Fugate of the Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club (YVRGC), regarding the boundary and acreage of the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness. On behalf of the YVRGC, Mr. Fugate pointed out the difference between the wilderness acreage figures in the designating legislation and in some Bureau of Land Management (BLM) documents. The YVRGC believes that the wilderness boundary as marked and mapped today is not what Congress intended.

The Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (1990 Act) (P.L. 101-628) "... designated as wilderness ... certain lands in LaPaz, Yuma, and Maricopa Counties, Arizona, which comprise approximately 89,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Eagletail Mountains Wilderness' and dated February 1990 ...". The YVRGC references the 1987 Lower Gila South Final Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that identified the Proposed Action for Eagletail Mountains as 78,020 acres suitable for wilderness designation and the 2006 Yuma Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Draft EIS that states the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness is 98,600 acres.

The boundary of the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness remains the same as when Congress designated the area. The Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 references a map dated February 1990 to show this Wilderness Area's boundary. That boundary has not changed in the last 17 years. What has changed during that time is the way the BLM calculates an area's acreage.

New methods of measurement allow the BLM to calculate acreage more accurately. For example, a survey of the wilderness boundary filed in 2001 yielded 98,675 acres in the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness. Use of the Geographic Information System gave the BLM a slightly different figure (98,583 acres). Both of these methods provide a more accurate measurement of the area. In preparing the Yuma Draft RMP, BLM staff chose to use a rounded figure of 98,600 acres for the Wilderness Area.

Unrelated to these technological innovations, a separate factor accounts for the change in acreage from the BLM's 1987 Wilderness Proposed Action to the figure included in the 1990 Act. In

developing the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990, Congress added the Cemetery Ridge area to the proposed wilderness.

Adding the Cemetery Ridge area (10,980 acres) to the BLM's initial proposal of 78,929 acres increased the acreage of the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness to the approximately 89,000 acres that appear in the 1990 law. The inclusion of the Cemetery Ridge area is documented in the House Report that accompanies this law (excerpt enclosed). In addition, the enclosed annotated map, dated October 1989, which shows the calculated acreage of the Cemetery Ridge area, is also part of the record.

The map referenced in the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 depicts the intent of Congress, and the BLM has followed the boundary on that map in managing the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness.

With respect to differences in reported acreage figures for other wilderness areas mentioned in Mr. Fugate's letter, similar reasons apply. For the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness, the wilderness was designated under two separate congressional acts. The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 first designated a wilderness of approximately 6,670 acres. The Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 designated the Aravaipa Wilderness Additions as wilderness, expanding the wilderness by 12,711 acres. In total, the two acts designated an Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness of approximately 19,381 acres. This is the figure generally reported in BLM documents.

Your interest in public lands and BLM natural resource management is appreciated. If you have further questions, please contact Ken Mahoney, BLM Arizona State Office Wilderness Specialist, at (602) 417-9200.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jim Hughes

James M. Hughes
Acting Director

Enclosures

bc:

LLM 172:LS304

LLM 620:LS:401

AZSO

LLM 620:LS:401:Britell:3/1/07:2043407

feet on the valley floor to 5,681 feet at the summit of Harquahala Peak, the highest point in southwestern Arizona. The view from the Peak presents a breathtaking panorama of the surrounding desert and distant mountain ranges.

Uncommon for most Arizona mountains, the Harquahalas contain an extensive and screened interior. The canyons, outcrops and hills in this sheltered interior furnishes the solitary and secluded experience so treasured by wilderness visitors.

Year-round water sustains critical habitat for such species as the desert bighorn and the desert tortoise. In addition, a 32,000 acre "island" of chaparral habitat on the higher ridges supports a variety of plant and animal species.

The Committee adopted the recommendations of the BLM in setting acreage and boundaries, resulting in deletion of about two-thirds of the unit for mineral and manageability concerns.

Big Horn Mountains

Visible from 40 miles away, spectacular Big Horn Peak towers over the surrounding ranges at 3,480 feet high. Near Interstate 10, the proposed Big Horn mountains Wilderness is easily accessible. Visitors can wander the narrow canyons or climb to the top of the range to be rewarded with views of thousands of undisturbed acres all around the region. The proposed Hummingbird Springs Wilderness lies just northeast of the area, separated from Big Horn Mountains by a jeep trail.

Although water is scarce here, there are no perennial streams and rainfall is slight, dense vegetation abounds. The hills and grasslands are carpeted with thickets of palo verde, ironwood, saguaro, ocotillo and wildflowers. The region contains 13,000 acres of crucial bighorn sheep habitat. Golden eagles, prairie falcons and Gila monsters are also among the wildlife found here.

Designation of this 20,600 acre wilderness will provide important protection for the natural and scenic values of the area. With its easy access and nearness to population centers, this wilderness will also provide an important source of recreation to the state.

A small boundary adjustment has been made on the north of the unit to accommodate active mining of fire agates and similar minerals.

Hummingbird Springs

Located about 60 miles west of Phoenix and near Interstate 10, this proposed area offers significant recreational potential for city dwellers and local residents seeking to "get away from it all." Although the region is geographically an extension of the Bighorn Mountains, Hummingbird Springs differs substantially from the proposed Bighorn Mountains wilderness abutting it on the west. Most desert mountains are "islands" rising abruptly from the desert floor. The area's dominant Sugarloaf Mountain, however, contains a complex and expansive system of foothills and drainages that is unusual in western Arizona. The complexity and diversity of landforms, the dense vegetation and the awesome natural beauty of the proposed wilderness combine to present a wealth of activities to visitors of all ages and abilities.

The variety of plant life presents a classic Sonoran Desert landscape of saguaros, chollas, ocotillos, palo verdes and mesquite. The spring hiker will be rewarded with lush grasses and wildflowers thriving in the valleys and foothills. Most of the region is also crucial habitat for the desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise. Among other wildlife frequenting the area are Cooper's hawks, golden eagles, kit foxes and the rare Gila monster.

Hummingbird Springs was not included in this legislation as first introduced. Public support for this area, however, was overwhelming and the Committee decided its inclusion would be a valuable addition to the bill. The boundaries of the 30,170 acre wilderness were drawn to exclude conflicts with mineral activities and human impacts on the east and west, leaving a core area rich in scenic and recreational values.

Eagletail Mountains

Located 65 miles west of Phoenix, this spectacular range of mountains offers visitors a rich wilderness experience. With Courthouse Rock and Eagletail Peak as the prominent features of the range, the jagged peaks, spires, weathered cliffs and diverse landforms furnish challenging climbing and hiking opportunities. Sightseers and nature lovers will find abundant natural arches and windows in the Eagletails. Wilderness designation of the bajadas to the west of the Eagletails is vital to protect brittle, floury desert soils.

Among the varied plant life in the mountain range, four special status species are found, qualifying the area to be proposed as a Natural Area by the Arizona Academy of Science. Evidence of prehistoric man is plentiful in the wilderness area, including lithic scatters, rock rings and shelters and numerous petroglyphs perhaps dating back 10,000 years.

The 94,100 acres comprising the proposed Eagletail Wilderness makes this area one of the larger parcels of land designated by this bill. The boundaries are slightly larger than originally proposed by the BLM state office. The additional acreage includes Cemetery Ridge within the wilderness boundary, providing important protection for the natural migration path of the desert bighorn sheep and increasing opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Signal Mountain

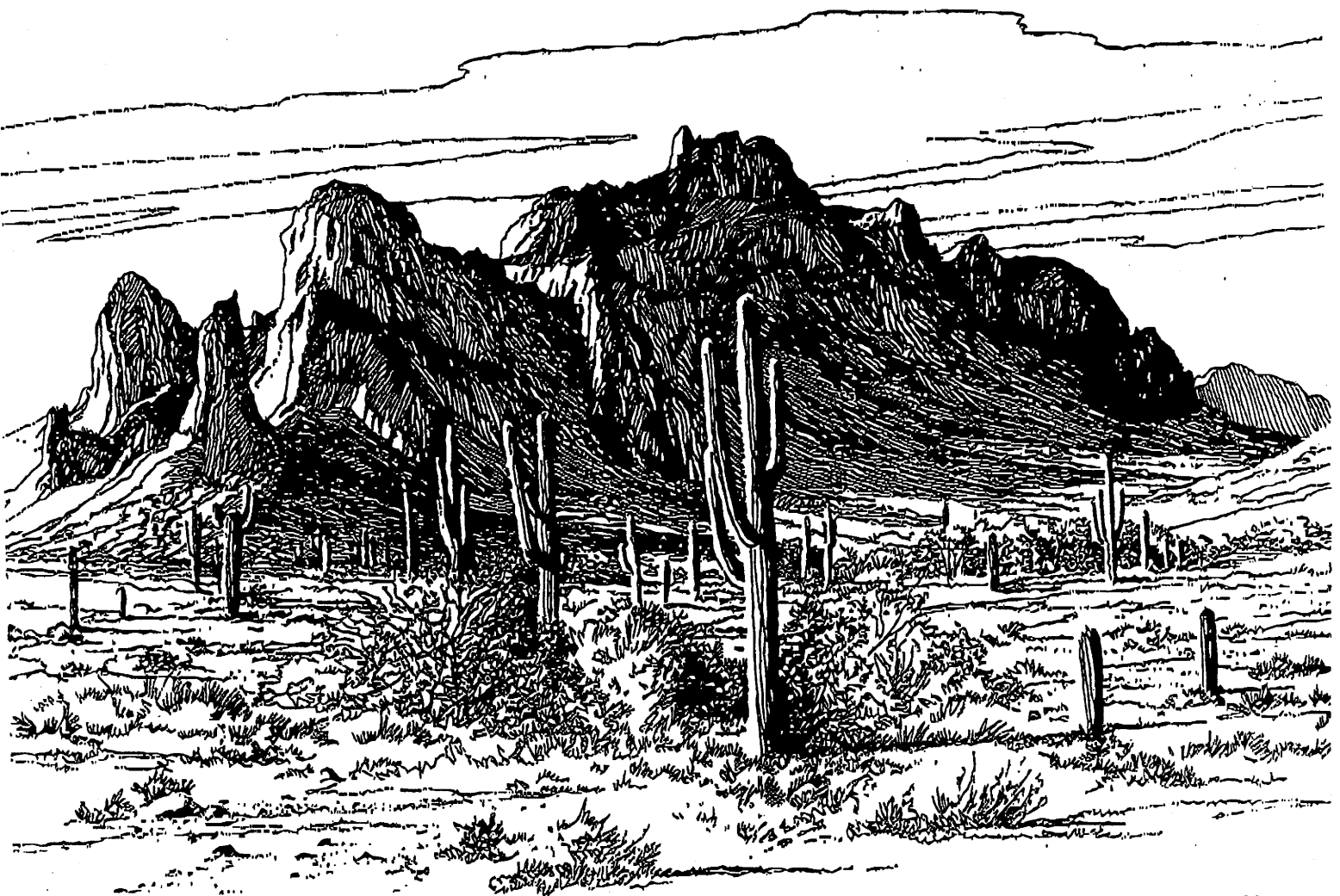
The proposed 15,250 acre Signal Mountain Wilderness presents a rich variety of scenery and vegetation. Signal Mountain is a colorful volcanic peak rising 1,200 feet from the desert floor to an elevation of 2181 feet. The sharp peaks and craggy ridges of the mountain contrast with the rolling hills, gentle valleys and outwash plains surrounding it. The area presents a pristine example of the Sonoran Desert environment.

Many forms of wilderness recreation are available in the area including hiking, climbing, hunting and horseback riding. The varied and colorful topography provides a distinct contrast to nearby mountains, offering a refreshing change of scenery.

The Signal Mountain Wilderness is adjacent to the newly-designated Woolsey Peak Wilderness, separated by a four-wheel drive gravel road. This offers crucial protection for a recently introduced herd of desert bighorn sheep. The Committee adopted the recom-

LOWER GILA SOUTH

Final Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement



PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona

7

IN REPLY REFER TO:



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

3707 N. 7th Street
P.O. Box 16963
Phoenix, Arizona 85011

April 1987

This document is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for wilderness in the Lower Gila Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Phoenix District in Arizona. Twelve wilderness study areas with 621,931 acres have been analyzed for suitability for wilderness designation.

This FEIS satisfies the requirement of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which directs the Secretary of the Interior to study public lands with wilderness characteristics. Since 1978 the BLM has been studying the public lands, reporting to the public and asking for comments from land users. This book gives my recommendation about some of the Arizona wilderness study areas.

The document is not, however, a decision document. This FEIS will go to the Director of the BLM in Washington, then to the Secretary of the Interior, along with minerals information about the study areas recommended for designation. The minerals data have been gathered and analyzed by the Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey. The Secretary will review the minerals reports and then make his recommendations to the President of the United States by 1991. The President will, in turn, forward his recommendations to Congress where the final decisions about wilderness designation will be made. Only Congress can decide which lands are to be wilderness.

On behalf of the BLM and my staff I want to tell you how much we appreciate all the time and effort contributed by so many people like you in commenting about the wilderness study areas. Bureau specialists and managers have read and listened to these comments and have, in many instances, been influenced by the wishes of you--the owners of the public lands.

Sincerely,


D. Dean Bibler
State Director

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TABLE 1-2
WSA ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED
 Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix District, Arizona

WSA	Alternative	Acres Suitable	Acres Nonsuitable
New Water Mountains (AZ-020-125)	Proposed Action	21,680	18,920
	No Wilderness	0	40,600
	Enhanced Wilderness	24,200	18,400
	All Wilderness	40,600	0
Little Horn Mtns. West (AZ-020-126A)	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	0	18,800
	All Wilderness	13,800	0
Little Horn Mtns. (AZ-020-127)	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	0	91,930
	Enhanced Wilderness	50,460	41,470
	All Wilderness	91,930	0
Eagletail Mountains (AZ-020-128)	Proposed Action	78,020	41,680
	Limited Wilderness	70,791	48,909
	No Wilderness	0	119,700
	Enhanced Wilderness	90,261	29,439
	All Wilderness	119,700	0
East Clanton Hills (AZ-020-129)	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	0	36,600
	All Wilderness	36,600	0
Face Mountain (AZ-020-136)	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	0	27,575
	Enhanced Wilderness	26,890	1,185
	All Wilderness	27,575	0
Signal Mountain (AZ-020-138)	Proposed Action	15,250	5,670
	No Wilderness	0	20,920
	All Wilderness	20,920	0
Woolsey Peak (AZ-020-142/144)	Proposed Action	61,000	12,930
	No Wilderness	0	73,930
	All Wilderness	73,930	0
North Maricopa Mtns. (AZ-020-157)	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	0	75,483
	Enhanced Wilderness	39,840	35,643
	All Wilderness	75,483	0
South Maricopa Mtns. (AZ-020-163)	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	0	72,004
	All Wilderness	72,004	0
Butterfield Stage Mem. (AZ-020-164)	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	0	9,566
	All Wilderness	9,566	0
Table Top Mountains (AZ-020-172)	Proposed Action	34,400	5,423
	No Wilderness	0	39,823
	All Wilderness	39,823	0

Source: Phoenix District files

(9)

41,470 acres not recommended could probably be designated as a limited ORV use area, thereby confining recreation ORVs to the remaining 14 miles of vehicle ways. Projected visitor use by alternative is shown in Table 2-2.

Lands Actions. No commercial, residential or rights-of-way developments are anticipated in the portion preliminarily recommended for wilderness.

In the area not recommended for wilderness a proposed utility corridor extends one-half mile into the WSA along 4.3 miles of the northern boundary. Two ultra-high voltage transmission lines may be constructed in this proposed corridor. This alternative would allow these anticipated uses.

Minerals Actions. In the portion of the WSA recommended for designation, no exploration or production programs are anticipated.

In the portion of the WSA recommended for nondesignation, an exploration program (but no production) is anticipated in the northern portion of the WSA immediately south of the existing El Paso gas line. This operation would disturb fewer than three acres and be accessed by existing vehicle ways.

Low intensity gold placer explorations in wash bottoms and gentle side slopes are expected to disturb about an acre every two years.

ALL WILDERNESS

All 91,930 acres of this WSA are recommended for wilderness designation under the *All Wilderness* alternative (see Map 2-4).

LIVESTOCK AND RANGELAND ACTIONS. Current short-term and projected long-term livestock use are: Eagletail (2,100, 2,310), Ranegras Plain (1,862, 1,937) and Crowder-Weisser (15,758, 15,758). Existing range improvements consist of five miles of boundary fence between the Crowder-Weisser and Ranegras Plain allotments. This improvement would continue to be maintained as it has in the past, and about seven miles of boundary fence would be constructed between the Ranegras Plain and Eagletail allotments.

RECREATIONAL USE ACTIONS. Designation would close 38 miles of vehicle ways and 91,930 acres to motorized recreation use. Projected visitor use by alternative is shown in Table 2-2.

LANDS ACTIONS. No commercial, residential or rights-of-way developments are anticipated in the state's inholdings.

This alternative would not allow the proposed corridor to be developed as proposed, but instead would force all development north of the existing El Paso Natural Gas pipeline.

MINERALS ACTIONS. No exploration or production programs are anticipated if this WSA is designated wilderness.

EAGLETAIL MOUNTAINS PROPOSED ACTION

The *Proposed Action* recommends 78,020 acres for wilderness designation and 41,680 acres for nondesignation. This alternative adjusts the WSA's boundaries to improve the area's manageability while still retaining and protecting the area's wilderness values (see Map 2-6). Vehicle way and jeep trail concentrations in the WSA's northern portions would be almost completely excluded. The northern boundary of the WSA would be established along the base of the Eagletail escarpment along topographic features and legal subdivision lines. Courthouse Rock would be included within the area proposed for wilderness. Boundaries are pulled back to natural topographic barriers on the WSA's south side. The west boundary would continue to be delineated by a dirt road and the eastern boundary by the Harquahala Valley Central Arizona Project (CAP) feeder canal right-of-way. Portions of the WSA considered favorable for minerals have also been excluded.

LIVESTOCK AND RANGELAND ACTIONS. Current short-term and projected long-term livestock use are: Eagletail (2,100, 2,310), Clem (3,216, 3,216) and Ranegras Plain (1,862, 1,937). Approximately five miles of boundary fence between the Ranegras Plain and the Eagletail allotments would be built to control livestock movement between the two allotments.

RECREATIONAL USE ACTIONS. In the portion of this WSA recommended for designation, 62.75 miles of vehicle ways and 78,020 acres would be closed to motorized recreation use. The remaining 41,680 acres of nonrecommended lands are expected to be designated as a limited ORV use area, which would limit ORV use to the existing 53.5 miles of vehicle ways in the nonwilderness lands. Projected visitor use by alternative is shown in Table 2-2.

LANDS ACTIONS. No commercial, residential or rights-of-way developments are anticipated in the portion recommended for wilderness.

In the portion of the WSA recommended for nondesignation a proposed utility corridor extends one-half mile into the WSA along 13 miles of the north and northeast boundary. Two ultra-high voltage transmission lines may be constructed in this corridor.

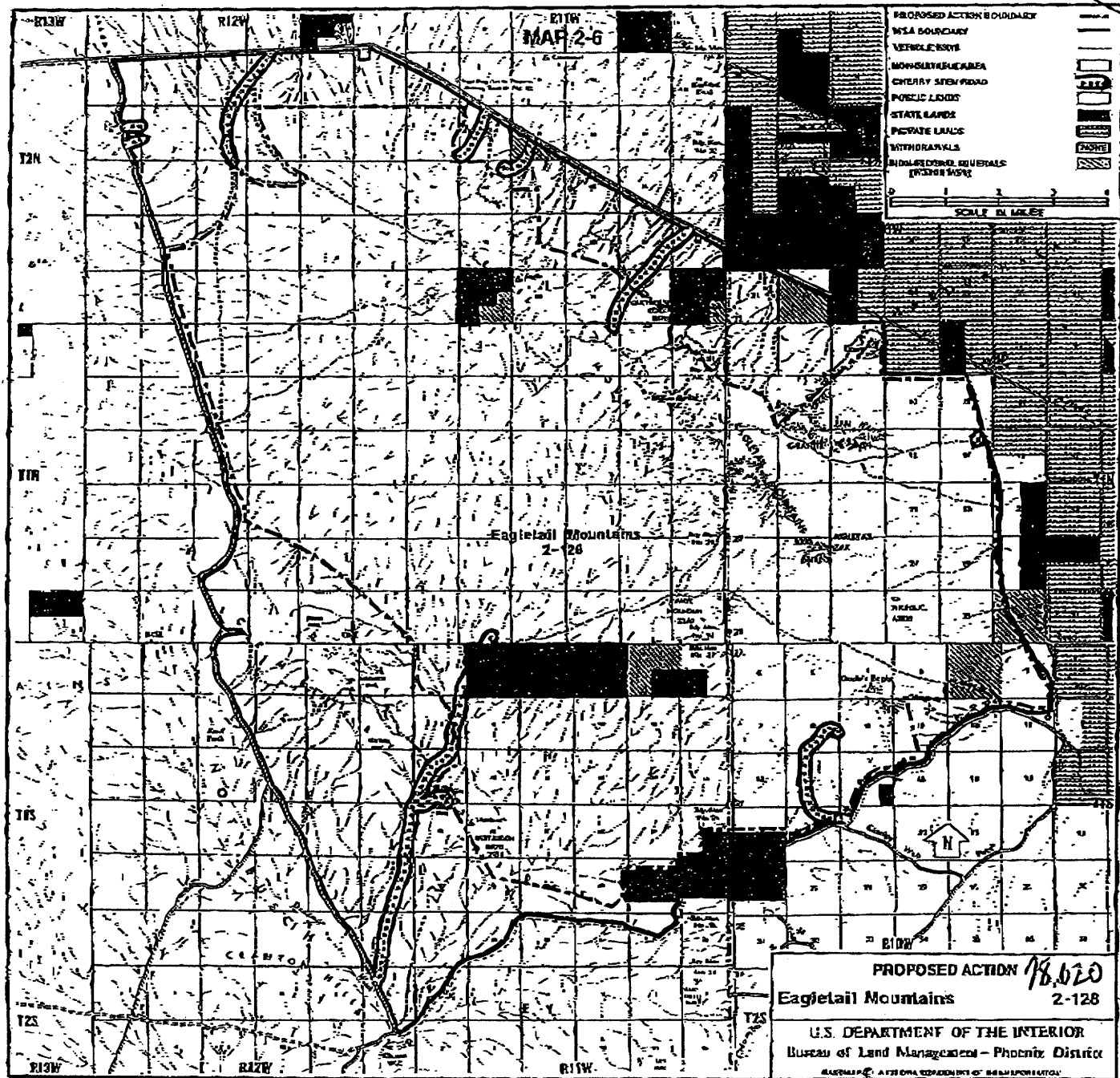
MINERALS ACTIONS. If the portion of this WSA recommended for wilderness is designated, no mineral exploration or production programs would be allowed in that area.

In the portion of the WSA recommended for nondesignation the following developments are expected:

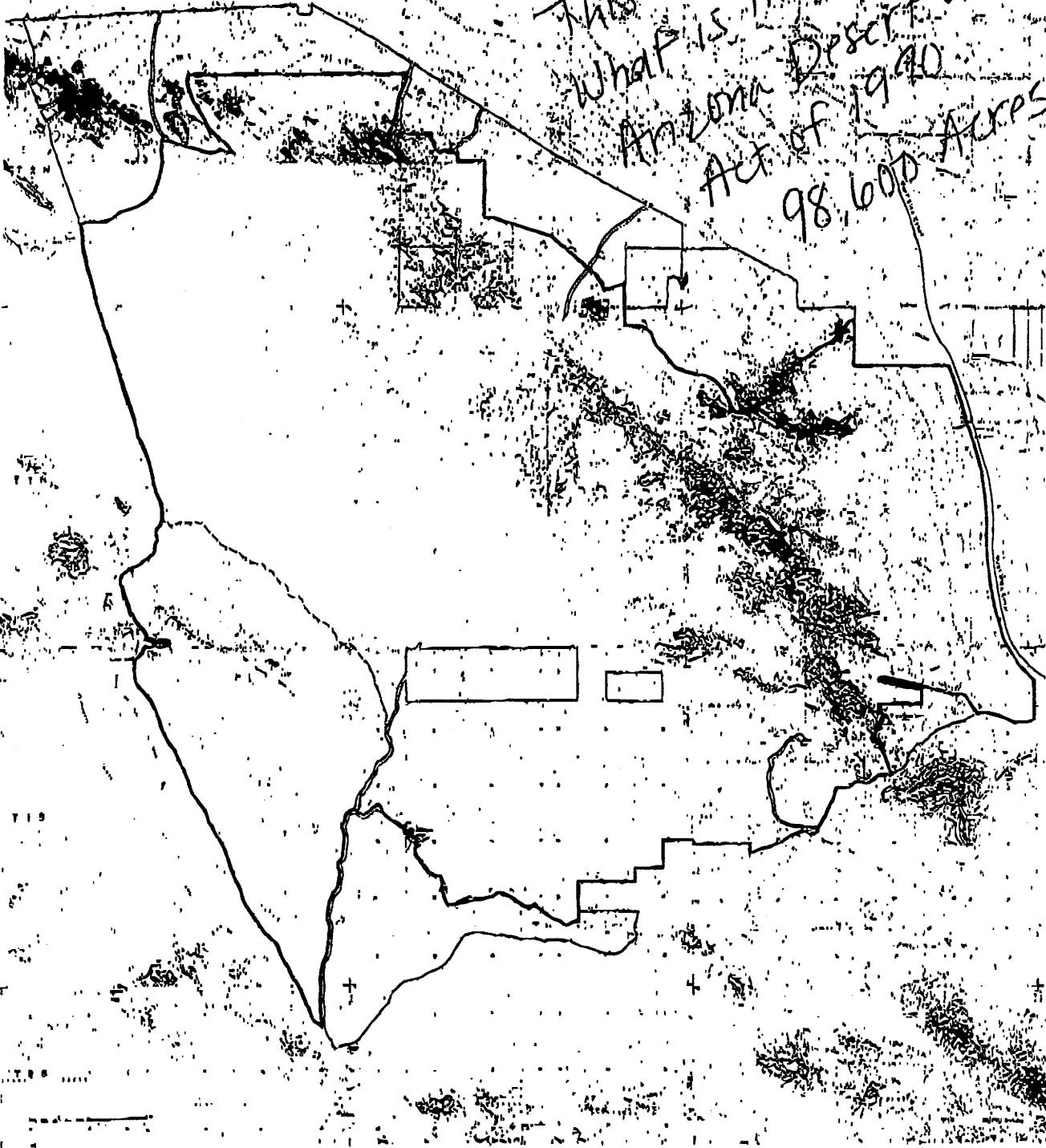
... exploration in the Red Bird Mine area in the southwestern portion in a previously disturbed area. Activities would disturb an additional two acres for upgrading existing access and construction of drill pads. Production for gold, silver, copper, lead, manganese and zinc is anticipated and would disturb five acres.

... exploration on existing claims in the Adams Mine area in the southwestern portion of the WSA would disturb

Nick:
This is the map
that went before
commission and public
up until Feb 1990.



Nick,
This map is the
what is in the
Arizona Desert Wilderness
Act of 1990
98,600 Acres



WILDERNESS AREA MAP

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FEBRUARY 1990

02-128 EAGLETAIL MOUNTAINS

LEGEND

- WILDERNESS STUDY AREA BOUNDARY
- WILDERNESS AREA BOUNDARY



SCALE: ONE MILE

COMPILED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, ARIZONA STATE OFFICE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA

PRICE: \$2.50 each



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Yuma Field Office

Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement Volume I - Chapters 1, 2, and 3

13

Yuma Field Office

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
December 2006
DES-06-35

Public Lands USA: Use, Share, Appreciate



considered exceptionally scenic for the region. Recreation such as backpacking, day hiking, sightseeing, photography, and rock climbing are enhanced by the topography and scenic character, as well as botanical, wildlife, and cultural values. This wilderness is managed according to the 1994 Muggins Mountains Wilderness Management Plan.

4. Eagletail Mountains Wilderness

The Eagletail Mountains Wilderness is about 65 miles west of Phoenix in Maricopa, Yuma, and La Paz counties and is 98,600 acres. The wilderness includes 15 miles of the Eagletail Mountains ridgeline and Courthouse Rock to the north, Cemetery Ridge to the south, and a large desert plain area between the two ridgelines. Several different rock strata are visible in most places, with natural arches, high spires, monoliths, jagged sawtooth ridges, and numerous washes six to eight miles long. Recreation such as extended horseback riding and backpacking trips, sightseeing, photography, rock climbing, and day hiking are enhanced by the topographic diversity, scenic character, size, as well as the botanical, wildlife, and cultural values of the area. This wilderness is managed according to the 1995 Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Management Plan.

5. California Wilderness

The YFO jointly manages four wilderness areas in California with the BLM California Desert District. The total acreage managed by YFO is approximately 6,400 acres. The Little Picacho and Palo Verde Mountains Wildernesses are located in Imperial County and co-managed with the BLM El Centro Field Office. The Riverside Mountains and Big Maria Mountains Wildernesses are located in Riverside County and co-managed with the BLM Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office. None of the California wilderness areas have management plans, and all are currently managed through interim operation plans for range, wildlife, and fire management in wilderness according 43 CFR 6300, BLM Manual 8560, BLM Handbook H-8560-1, and other applicable guidance.

B. ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In 1775 and 1776, the Spanish crown commissioned military commander Juan Bautista de Anza to lead two expeditions to establish a settlement on San Francisco Bay. Congress designated the route followed by Juan Bautista de Anza (Anza) as a NHT in 1990. Within the U.S., the Anza NHT is approximately 1,200 miles long, extending from Tubac, Arizona to San Francisco, California. In 1996, the NPS finalized a Comprehensive Management and Use Plan and EIS for the Anza NHT, which provides the BLM with trail management guidance. Local agencies have been tasked to develop a recreational Anza NHT inside of a one-mile wide corridor established by the NPS management plan and EIS. Within the planning area, approximately 21 miles of BLM-administered lands along the Gila River are located within this trail corridor. The de Anza Auto Route has already been established along I-8.

In 1999, the Anza NHT was selected by the White House Millennium Council and the U.S. Department of Transportation as a National Millennium Trail. Millennium Trails "are the roads, rivers and routes that best illustrate the American story," according to the White House proclamation. There is a plan for the Mexican government to develop 600 miles of the trail

3.0 Affected Environment

Table 3-21
Wilderness Areas Managed by YFO in Planning Area

Wilderness Area	YFO Managed Acres	Total Wilderness Acres
Arizona		
Eagletail Mountains	98,600	98,600
Muggins Mountain	7,700	7,700
New Water Mountains	24,700	24,700
Trigo Mountains	30,400	30,400
California		
Big Marias Mountains	1,600	47,600
Little Picacho	2,900	33,600
Palo Verde Mountains	800	32,300
Riverside Mountains	1,100	22,400
Total Wilderness	167,800	295,300

1. New Water Mountains Wilderness

The rugged New Water Mountains Wilderness, 24,700 acres, is 10 miles east of the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona and approximately four miles south of I-10. This area is characterized by strings of craggy spires, sheer rock outcrops, natural arches, slickrock canyons, and deep sandy washes. Vegetation is sparse with saguaro, creosote, ocotillo, and cholla dotting the hills and paloverde and ironwood lining the washes. The wilderness is important desert bighorn sheep habitat. The wilderness offers many types of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities, such as extended backpacking and hiking trips, day hikes, wildlife viewing, hunting, rock hounding, and landscape photography. This wilderness is located adjacent to the Kofa NWR, and both are managed according to the 1997 Kofa NWR and Wilderness and New Water Mountains Wilderness Interagency Management Plan.

2. Trigo Mountains Wilderness

The Trigo Mountains Wilderness is located about 25 miles north of Yuma, in La Paz County and is 30,400-acres. The wilderness is characterized by sawtooth ridges and steep-sided canyons and is heavily dissected by washes. Recreation such as extended horseback riding and backpacking trips, sightseeing, hiking, and rock climbing are enhanced by the topographic diversity, scenic character, as well as botanical, wildlife, and cultural values. The Trigo Mountains Wilderness Management Plan is still in draft, and the wilderness is currently managed under 43 CFR 6300, BLM Manual 8560, BLM Handbook H-8560-1, and other applicable guidance. Interim operations plans are currently in effect for range, wildlife, and fire management in wilderness.

3. Muggins Mountains Wilderness

The Muggins Mountains Wilderness is located approximately 25 miles east of Yuma and is 7,700 acres. The wilderness includes a cluster of rugged peaks at the western end of the Muggins Mountains, the most prominent being Muggins Peak, Klothos Temple, and Long Mountain. Twin Tanks Wash, Long Mountain Wash, Morgan Wash, and other deeply cut drainages dissect the peaks. The rugged landform and colorful geologic strata of the Muggins Mountains are

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Yuma Field Office
Draft RMP/DEIS
December

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11/21/91 USDI * BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT * ARIZONA STATE OFFICE PAGE 07

SERIAL REGISTER PAGE

GEO STATE: ARIZONA

SERIAL NO: AZA 25497

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* CONTINUED *

M_ TOWN RANGE SEC SUBDIVISION

SURFACE MGMT AGENCY

1 FOR NWSE
1 NENW

***** TOTAL ACRES: 99999.999 *****

ACTN DATE	CODE	ACTION	ACTION REMARKS	PEND ACT
11/28/1990	387	CASE ESTABLISHED		
11/28/1990	497	TOTAL ACREAGE	100600.000;	
11/28/1990	500	GEOGRAPHIC NAME	EAGLETAIL MOUNTAINS;	
11/28/1990	543	SEGREGATION (MINERAL)	ALL;	
11/28/1990	544	SEGREGATION (SURFACE)	ALL;	
11/28/1990	552	LAND SEGREGATED		
11/28/1990	705	ORDER ISSUED	PL 101-628	
11/28/1990	830	WITHDRAWN	PL 101-628	
11/21/1991	042	CASE SENT	CASE-MORFIN	ES AZ05016
11/21/1991	074	INFORMATION SENT	DRAFTING ON MTP	ES AZ92113
01/01/9999	763	EXPIRES		

COMMENTS:

01 ACRES NOT CALCULATED FOR COUNTIES.

STATE	ENTITY	ACRES
	YUMA DISTRICT, ARIZONA	99999.999
ARIZONA	LA PAZ COUNTY, ARIZONA	1.000
ARIZONA	MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA	1.000
ARIZONA	YUMA COUNTY, ARIZONA	1.000

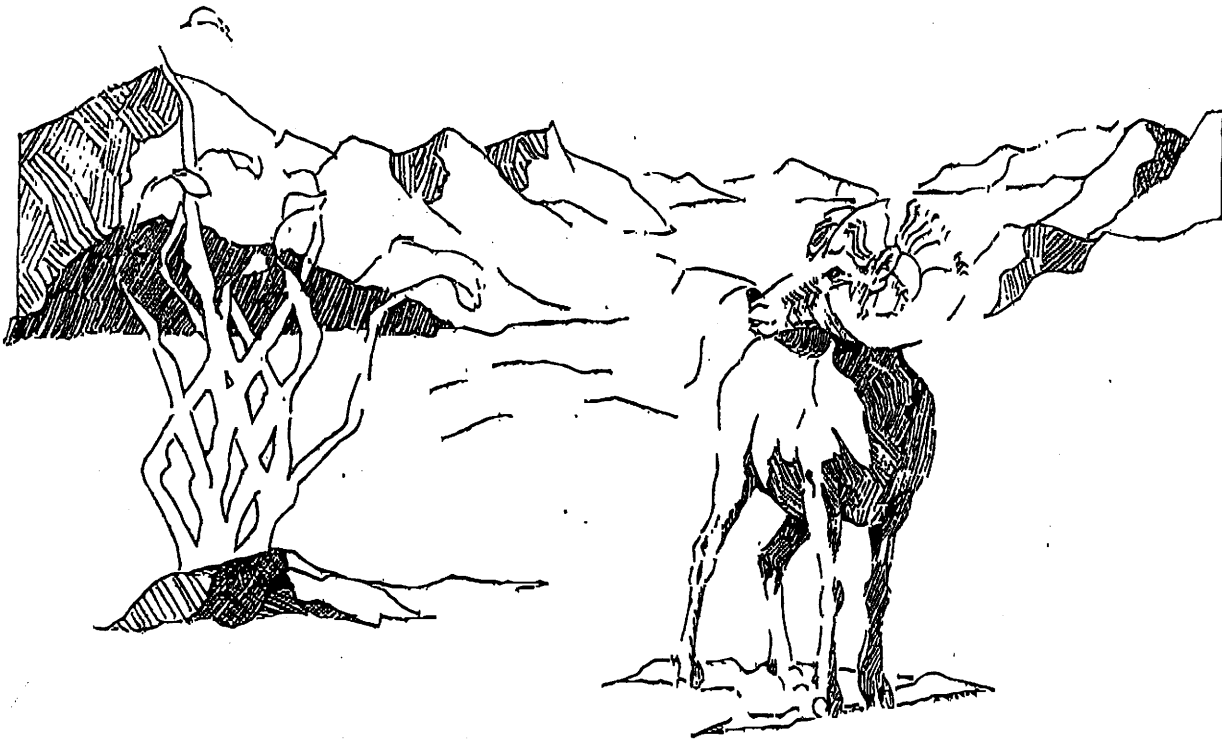
CASE DISPOSITION: 11/28/1990 AUTHORIZED

Mick,
The BLM Yuma
field office gave
us this document
in the Spring
of 2006.

(16)

FINAL

YUMA DISTRICT WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona

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Local residents feel strongly that this is being done for a few activists who seldom use our desert lands. We are asking that you vehemently oppose this program in order to preserve our access to these valuable resources.

Sincerely,

Anna Stewart
Anna Stewart, Chairman
Yuma County Chapter of Cymru

ASDP

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The Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

DECEMBER 1994



DECEMBER 1994

P.O. Box 1000, Yuma, Arizona 85406

Dear Sir,

I am responsive to wilderness in the Yuma district. I am against wilderness because of the amount of land surrounding Yuma that is already valuable due to government control, Yuma being the third largest metropolitan area in the state needs considerable land for recreational use of all forms. As Yuma grows so does the need for usable land for recreation. The setting aside of wilderness for a few individuals who unfortunately think they are saving what is best for all is not in the best interest of anyone.

Wilderness is not supposed to be a withdrawal of public lands, it is supposed to be multiple use, but only under certain circumstances will hunting and mineral development be allowed. Access will be by foot only in most cases unless a valid claim or grazing lease exists, then only those possessing the lease or claim will have access by vehicle.

Not only will people not benefit from wilderness, but wildlife will also be the loser. The fact is wildlife, deer and bighorn sheep have been on the increase due to modern management practices, that means the use of heavy equipment to build or maintain water holes in the desert will not be possible. Under wilderness there will be a minimum fuel requirement to create or maintain existing water holes. This represents a problem because who will decide what minimum fuel is?

Who will guarantee that if heavy equipment needs to be used, the Sierra Club or South Forks to name a few, won't file suit and stop such preventing the maintenance or building of water holes. Without water animals or their young will die, if that happens everybody will be a loser. During the summer months water has to be hauled in catchments for animals to survive. There is no way to prevent all animals from being a threat to the wildlife, and the wildlife is not the only one who is threatened.

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The Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

DECEMBER 1994



DECEMBER 1994

P.O. Box 1000, Yuma, Arizona 85406

September 22, 1994

J. Edwin Small
Yuma District Manager BLM
2135 Winant Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85406

RE: Draft Yuma District EIS

Dear Mr. Small,

In view of the Yuma District Draft Environmental Impact Statement, or update wilderness designation to areas of the Yuma District. In addition, we oppose wilderness designation to all other BLM wilderness proposals throughout the state.

We are opposing designating BLM lands as wilderness because of the problems we will see with wildlife management, access, and having another way to either restrict or eliminate our right to hunt, fish, and trap on public lands.

Until the BLM can foresee these and always impact and submit proposals to minimize these impacts, we see no alternative due to designating with BLM, both on the district level and the state level.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Larry Knight
Don Fugate
Wilderness Committee Chairman
Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club

Don Fugate
Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club
2135 Winant Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85406

The Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

DECEMBER 1994



DECEMBER 1994

P.O. Box 1000, Yuma, Arizona 85406

2. Guarantee that practices will be able to continue under wilderness, with the closure of Yuma Freeway Ground and under a primary flight pattern, it would be impossible to have a wilderness experience. Between runs going off at YTS and jets going overhead, solitude will be impossible. The Triana and Muckins are bordered by YTS. The Kofa J, 4 north, and 4 south are bordered by Highway 95, a major thoroughfare. The Triana and Muckins have a high mineral potential. There is also a high mineral potential in Kofa 4 south.

The Triana, Muckins, Kofa J, 4 north, and 4 south do not fit the criteria for wilderness. The Triana and Muckins because of mining, recreational use, and lack of solitude do not qualify. The Kofa J, 4 north, and 4 south do not meet the criteria because lack of solitude and could only be accepted if the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge becomes wilderness. It also does not qualify because of the closeness to a major highway, mining, the amount of roads, and the amount of recreational usage by off road vehicles in the area.

Thank You.

Larry Knight
Larry Knight

LARRY KNIGHT
VINO 25TH PL
YUMA, ARIZ 85406

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